

Hawkins, CherylA

From: Hawkins, CherylA
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 2:14 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Cogliano, Vincent
Subject: RE: follow-up on Scl issue

(b) (6)

My apologies for taking so long to reply to your last email.

I checked the EPA Peer Review Handbook, 4th edition (https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-03/documents/epa_peer_review_handbook_4th_edition.pdf) to see if there is any mention of peer review calculators but didn't find any. I also attended a conference call of the EPA Peer Review Advisory Group (PRAG), the workgroup of the Agency's peer review experts, to ask if anyone knew if there were any Agency requirements that calculators have to be peer reviewed before they are made available. While there have been instances when calculators were peer reviewed, no one on the PRAG was familiar with any requirements in the Agency that calculators undergo peer review.

I discussed your concerns about the (b) (6) having not undergone an external peer review before it was posted with Vince Cogliano, who is currently the backup to the Scientific Integrity Official, Francesca Grifo, while she is on extended leave. Vince does not believe this would constitute a violation of the EPA Scientific Integrity Policy since there are no requirements with regard to the peer review of calculators. The EPA Scientific Integrity Policy discusses peer review but refers to the Peer Review Policy and Peer Review Handbook. The Scientific Integrity Program does not arbitrate differences in opinion on the merits of a scientific product. The Scientific Integrity Program now considers this issue closed.

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From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 3:43 PM
To: Hawkins, CherylA <Hawkins.CherylA@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: follow-up on Scl issue

At my Division Director's request, I am no longer working in the (b) (6). To the best of my knowledge, the (b) (6) Calculator has not undergone a formal peer review.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

From: Hawkins, CherylA
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 1:31 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: follow-up on Scl issue

(b) (6)

I recently joined the Scientific Integrity Program in the Office of the Science Advisor. I've been asked to follow-up with you on a scientific integrity concern you raised back in May of 2015. Your concern was that the (b) (6) Calculator had not undergone a formal peer review before it was made available on the EPA website. In some of the notes I have for your case there are indications that you were speaking with someone involved with the calculators about the need for peer review. If that information is correct, could you tell me what the outcome of these discussions were and if you feel the issue has been resolved? If you don't feel that the issue was resolved, then please let me know and I'll set-up a call to discuss how we might help.

Thank you,
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